Title:	**SAMPLE PACKAGING**
Category:	ENV 3.16
Revised:	August 2008

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

SAMPLE PACKAGING

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1. Introduction

Liquid and solid environmental samples are routinely collected by E & E during field surveys, site investigations, and other site visits for laboratory analysis. Unless the samples have anesthetic, noxious, or other properties that could inhibit the ability of a flight crew member to perform his or her duty or are known to meet the established U.S. Department of Transportation criteria for hazardous material (i.e., explosive, corrosive, flammable, poisonous), they are not regulated as hazardous materials.

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes the packaging procedures to be used by E & E's staff to ensure the safe arrival of the samples at the laboratory for analyses. These procedures have been developed to reduce the risk of damage to the samples (i.e., breakage of the sample containers), promote the maintenance of sample temperature within the cooler, and prevent spillage of the sampled material should a container be broken.

In the event the sample material meets the established criteria of a DOT hazardous material, the reader is referred to E & E's Hazardous Materials/Dangerous Goods Shipping Guidance Manual (see H&S 5.5).

2. Scope

This SOP describes procedures for the packaging of environmental samples in:

- Coolers;
- Steel, aluminum and plastic drums; and
- 4GV fiberboard boxes.

The Hazardous Materials/Dangerous Goods Shipping Guidance Manual will complete the information needed for shipping samples by providing guidance on:

- Hazard determination for samples which meet the USDOT definition of a hazardous material;
- Shipping profiles for "standard" shipments;
- Shipping procedures for "non-standard" shipments;
- Marking of packages containing hazardous materials;
- Labeling of packages containing hazardous materials; and
- Preparation of shipping papers for hazardous materials shipment.

3. Sample Packaging Procedures

3.1 General

It is E & E's intent to package samples so securely that there is no chance of leakage during shipment. This is to prevent the loss of samples and the expenditure of funds for emergency responses to spills and the efforts necessary to re-obtain the sample.

Over the years, E & E has developed several "standard" package configurations for the shipping of environmental samples. These standard package configurations are described below.

Liquid samples are particularly vulnerable. Because transporters (carriers) do not know the difference between a package leaking distilled water and a package leaking a hazardous chemical, they will react to a spill in an emergency fashion, potentially causing enormous expense to E & E for the cleanup of the sample material. Therefore, liquids are to be packed in multiple layers of plastic bags and absorbent/cushioning material to preclude any possibility of leaks from a package. This section defines the standard packaging configurations for environmental samples.

3.2 Liquid Environmental Sample Packaging Procedures

Liquid environmental samples should be collected and preserved as outlined in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Surface Water Sampling (ENV 3.12), and Groundwater Well Sampling (ENV 3.7). ***Preserved water samples are not considered to meet the HM/DG definitions of Class 8 (Corrosive) due to the preservative and are therefore considered to be nonhazardous samples.*** Liquid environmental samples may be shipped using an 80-quart cooler or an outer package consisting of either a steel or aluminum drum. Because the steel and aluminum drums provide little insulating capability, they should not be used for samples that require icing.

Packaging Liquid Environmental Samples Using the 80-Quart Cooler

- Label and seal all water sample bottles according to appropriate sampling SOPs;
- Secure the bottle caps using fiberglass tape; and
- Place each amber, poly, and volatile organic analysis (VOA) bottle in a sealable plastic bag. Mark the temperature blank VOA bag for identification.

If a foam block insert is used:

- Line the cooler with two plastic bags;
- Place a foam insert (with holes cut to receive the sample bottles) inside the plastic bag;

- Place the bottles in the holes in the foam block;
- Fill void spaces with bagged ice to the top of the cooler;
- Fold over the plastic bags lining the cooler and secure shut with tape;
- Place Chain-of-Custody (C-O-C) form in a sealable bag and tape it to the inside of the cooler lid; and
- Secure the cooler with strapping tape and custody seal. Cover the custody seals with clear tape.

If acceptable absorbent material is used:

- Place 1 inch of inert absorbent material in the bottom of the cooler;
- Line the cooler with two plastic bags;
- Place each sample bottle inside the inner bag;
- Fill the void spaces around the bottles with absorbent to about half the height of the large bottles;
- Fill the remainder of the void spaces with bagged ice to within 4 inches of the top of the cooler, making sure the VOAs are in direct contact with a bag of ice;
- Fold over the plastic bags lining the cooler and secure shut with tape;
- Fill the remaining space in the cooler with absorbent to the top of the cooler;
- Place C-O-C form in a sealable bag and tape it to the inside of the cooler lid; and
- Secure the cooler with strapping tape and custody seal. Cover the custody seals with clear tape.

Note: Acceptable absorbent materials must not react dangerously with the liquid and include vermiculite only if certified asbestos free.

Alternate Packaging Using 1A2/1B2 Drum

- Place 3 inches of inert absorbent material in the bottom of the drum;
- Line the drum with two plastic bags;
- Place each sample bottle inside the inner bag;

- Fill the void spaces around the bottles with absorbent to the height of the larger bottles;
- Fold over the plastic bags lining the drum and secure shut with tape;
- Fill the remaining space in the drum with absorbent to the top of the drum;
- Place C-O-C form in a sealable bag and tape it to the inside of the drum lid; and
- Secure the drum with closing ring and apply custody seals. Cover the custody seals with clear tape.

3.3 Soil/Sediment Environmental Sample Packaging Procedures

Soil/sediment environmental samples should be collected as outlined in the SOP for Soil Sampling (ENV 3.13), and SOP for Sediment Sampling (ENV 3.8). Soil/sediment environmental samples may be shipped using an 80-quart cooler, a 4GV fiberboard combination package, or an outer package consisting of either a steel or aluminum drum. Because the steel and aluminum drums provide little insulating capability, they should not be used for samples that require icing.

Packaging Soil/Sediment Environmental Samples

- Label and seal each sample container according to SOPs;
- Secure the bottle caps using fiberglass tape;
- Place each sample bottle inside a sealable plastic bag and place it in its original shipping box or in individual fiberboard boxes. Mark the temperature blank bag for identification; and
- Secure the original shipping box with strapping tape, place shipping box in a plastic bag, and secure the plastic bag with tape.

If an 80-quart cooler is used:

- Place bubble pack or similar material on the bottom and sides of an 80-quart cooler;
- Place the bagged shipping boxes in the cooler with a layer of bubble pack between each box;
- Fill the void spaces with “blue ice” or ice in baggies to the top of the cooler;
- Place C-O-C form in a sealable baggie and tape it to the inside of the cooler lid; and

- Secure the cooler with strapping tape and custody seal. Cover the seals with clear tape.

If a 1A2/1B2 drum is used:

- Place 3 inches of inert absorbent material in the bottom of the drum;
- Line the drum with two plastic garbage bags;
- Place the boxes inside the inner bag;
- Fill the space around the samples with absorbent;
- Fold over the plastic bags lining the drum and secure shut with tape;
- Fill the remaining space around the bags with absorbent to the top of the drum;
- Place C-O-C form in a sealable bag and tape it to the inside of the drum lid; and
- Secure the drum with the closing ring and apply custody seals. Cover the custody seals with clear tape.

Note: If a small number of samples are being shipped, it may be more practical to package them using the absorbent or foam block configurations used for shipping liquid samples.

4. Shipping Procedures

Environmental samples are to be shipped as nonhazardous cargo. Unless the samples have anesthetic, noxious, or other properties that could inhibit the ability of a flight crew member to perform his or her duty or are known to meet the established U.S. Department of Transportation criteria for a hazardous material (i.e., explosive, corrosive, flammable, poisonous), they are not regulated as hazardous materials. When preparing the containers (i.e., cooler, drum, or box) for shipment, E & E staff must remove all labels from the outside container. Labels indicating that the contents may be hazardous are misleading and are not appropriate. Markings indicating ownership of the container, destination, and chain of custody labels are acceptable and can be attached as required.

When completing the paperwork for shipment, the standard nonhazardous forms must be used. Do not use the hazardous materials/dangerous goods airbills, either in total or in part; these forms are coded and their use will invite unnecessary questions. This will only serve to confuse DHL or Federal Express' terminal personnel and will cause much frustration and the delay of sample shipment.

Environmental sample packages can be shipped overnight by both DHL and Federal Express. When choosing between the two, cost should be considered. It is normally much cheaper

to ship DHL. In addition, DHL tends to have remote locations open later in the evenings than Federal Express, which may be helpful when trying to complete a full day's sampling effort and still make the flights on time. Although both companies offer pickup of samples at the site, it is advisable to call ahead and ensure that this service is offered beforehand. In almost all cases, both companies will deliver to the laboratory of your choice on Saturdays. When planning for sampling activities, check with the companies in advance to verify pick-up and delivery schedules.